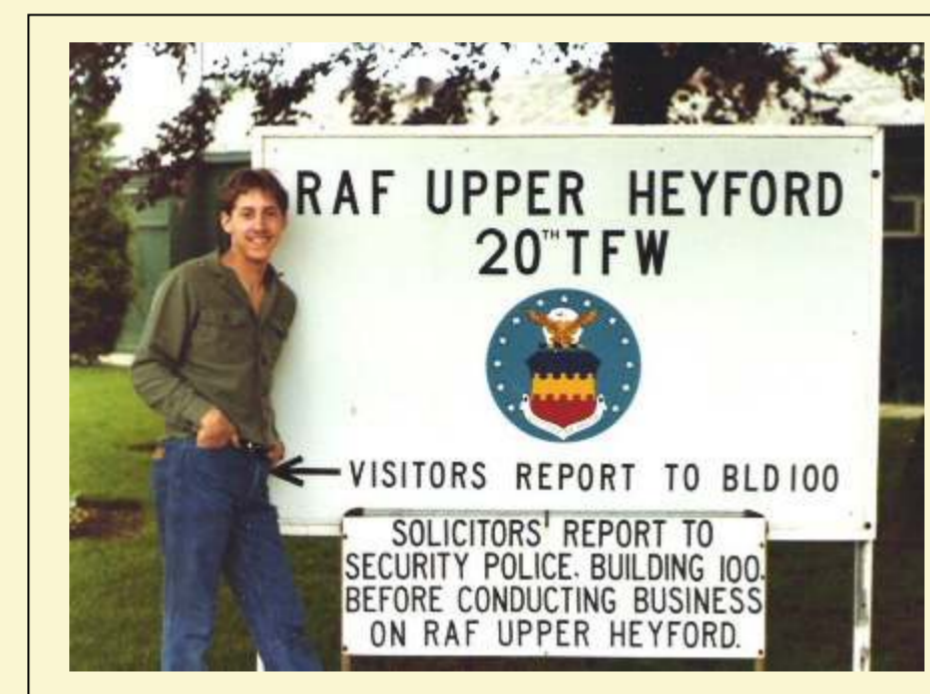
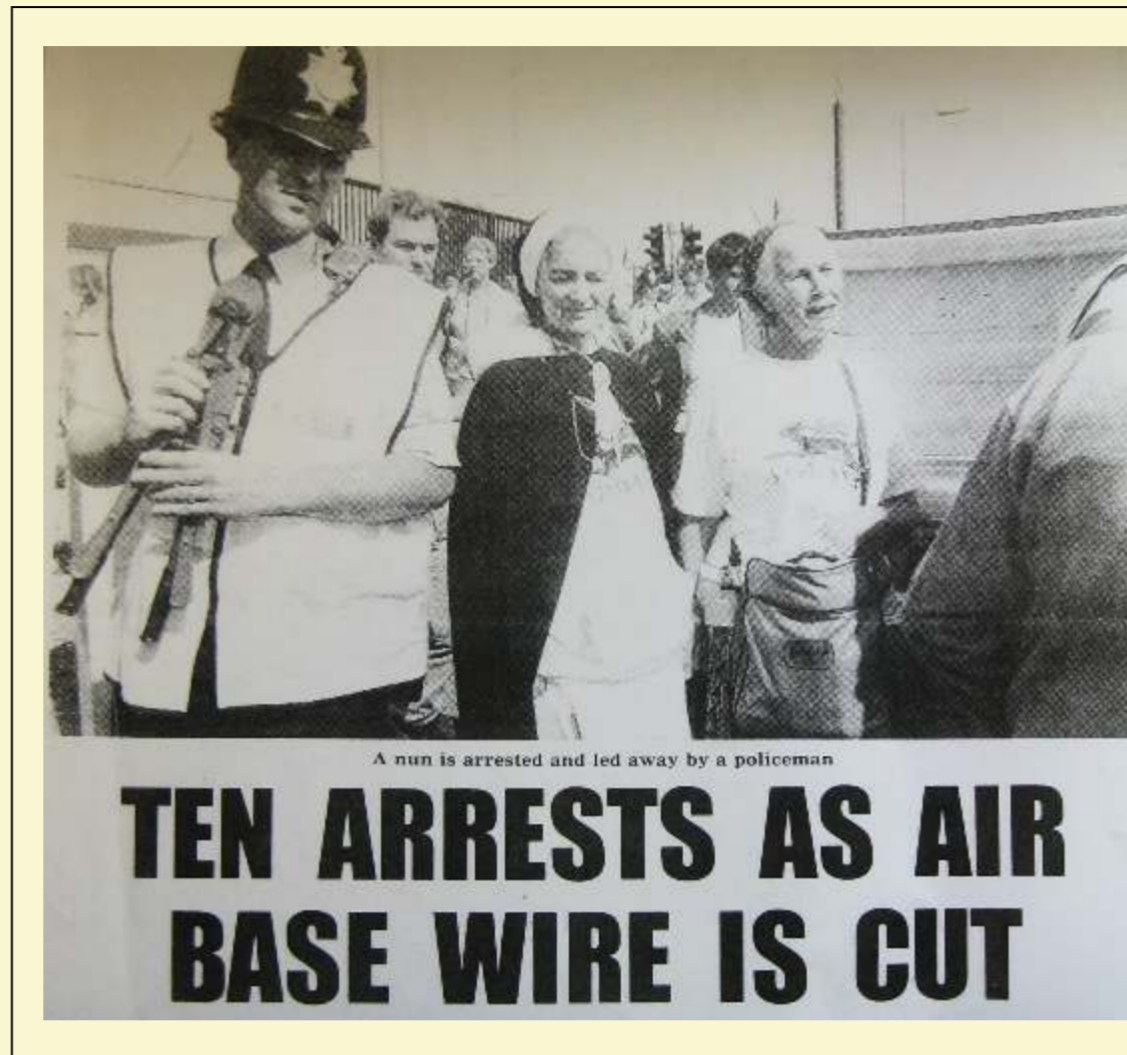


# THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 3

## 1983 to 1988

- 1983 The Oxford Mail carries a report about proliferation of drink-driving charges involving base military personnel.
- 1984 F-111 falls into Scottish hillside. 2 pilots eject. Additional squadron of 15 F-111s arrives
- April 1986 Following several incidents of terrorism in Europe and the U.S.A. by Libyan agents acting on the orders of General Gaddafi, a bomb explodes in a Berlin disco, killing three people including a U.S. serviceman and injuring 229. On the 14<sup>th</sup> April, U.S. aircraft bomb five targets in Libya. President Reagan states that he wants "to send a message" to those who are harbouring and training terrorists. Four EF-111 Ravens of the 20<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing from USAF Upper Heyford are involved. The returning jets are clearly heard by most Steeple Aston residents early in the morning.
- March 1988 A piece of an F-111, possibly an aileron, lands in a field in Middle Aston. It is on display in the Red Lion until collected by the military a few days later (see photo below).



- 1983 January: SAL report on PC receiving complaints regarding excessive noise and traffic coming from the base. Letter from a villager complains about rubbish identifiably emanating from the Base being thrown from cars and notes that the school formerly sited at the base has been moved away from it, presumably because of noise.
- 1984 SAL carries a report on Ministry of Defence noise study following introduction of more jets. Secondary double glazing offered to houses in Ardley, Steeple Aston and other villages within 70dBA noise footprint.
- 1986 May: SAL report on a petition organised by "some women" from Steeple Aston and Duns Tew protesting at the use of the Base to launch jets which bombed Libya in April. The petition was handed to the Base commander. The Base offers a polite response the following month.
- 1986 June: Jet is seen over village, apparently with engine trouble.
- 1986 October: Horses at Westfield Riding stable are startled by two low-flying jets during Riding For The Disabled.
- 1987 June: Letter to SAL complains about low attendance at Base Liaison Committee meetings, a group consisting of parish representatives from the surrounding villages and military personnel from USAF. Base spokesman warns of 3 or 4 "exercise days" days of increased activity.
- October. SAL contains claim forms from the Department of the Environment for noise pollution nuisance.



**CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION UNDER PART 1 OF THE LAND COMPENSATION ACT 1973.**  
(Regarding Extra Deployment of F111 aircraft to Upper Heyford in 1984)

I have recently been in contact with the Prudential Property Services Ltd., regarding claims. This claim is for the nuisance factor of Noise, Vibration, small fumes from the extra squadron of aircraft that came in early '84, and is COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM THE CASE WE ARE CURRENTLY FIGHTING WITH REGARD NOISE ETC., it will in no way prejudice the present issue.

Prudential Property Services state that it is not too late to make a claim, subject to their conditions stated below.

In order to be eligible to claim compensation, the eligibility requirements are as follows:-

1. They must have acquired their property before 1st February 1984.
2. They must continue to own and occupy the property at the date of making the claim.
3. If a property is tenanted, then provided the landlord purchased the property before 1st February 1984 then he can also make a claim in respect of his tenanted property (as well as his own owner/occupied property).

Please note that all these eligibility requirements apply to houses only. In the case of business premises and agricultural properties, modified rules apply and in those circumstances I would suggest that the individual contact Prudential Property Services Ltd., Survey & Valuation Division, 28 Commercial Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1EH. Tel: 0845 755505.

There is one additional provision applicable specifically to RAF Upper Heyford and the Fourth Squadron. It was not announced until February 1986 that people were eligible to claim and there are therefore people who owned their property at 1st February 1984 but who sold during that 2 year period. Normally if someone sells a property without making a claim then they have lost their right to a claim but in this particular instance as it was not public knowledge that there was a right to claim until February 1986 an exception to the rule has been made for anyone who sold during that 2 year period. Anyone who sold after February 1986 technically in the eyes of the Law should have known of their right to claim compensation and if they have not done so at this stage then they have forfeited their right.

I have a number of claim forms to hand, obtainable from me at "Palmer House" South Side, Steeple Aston.

Paul O'Sullivan

